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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: January 21, 2000
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Acting Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #60
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made several revisions to drinking water regulations (Federal Register: December 1, 1999). This document can be accessed at this @ <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/1999/December/Day-01/w30901.htm>. Several new methods have been approved. The older versions of the methods will not be withdrawn until June 01, 2001. The newly promulgated methods and the newly approved membrane filter medium for the simultaneous determination of total Coliforms and *E.coli* cannot be used for compliance testing of drinking water in Arizona until they are promulgated in Arizona through a rule change or through the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Director's approval.

Following are some of the amendments made to the drinking water regulation: 1) microbiological samples collected for the determination of coliforms or fecal coliforms in source water or for determination of heterotrophic bacteria in distribution systems are to be shipped and held below 10° C; 2) minimum incubation time for reading the Colisure Test, for determination of total coliforms, was reduced from 28 hours to 24 hours; 3) the maximum holding time for nitrates was increased from 48 hours to 14 days for chlorinated, unacidified drinking water samples. Laboratories are not required to make the method changes until the changes are promulgated through the ADHS Director's approval. However if the laboratories adopt the changes listed in the above items 2) and 3), the final reports must be footnoted to reflect the deviation from the method; e.g., for nitrates if the holding time is extended past 48 hours, then the footnote should say "the holding time exceeded the method required 48 hours but was within USEPA required 14 days". The laboratories should make sure that the data user is made aware of the amendments to the drinking water regulation.

2. US EPA Region IX has delegated to ADHS (in a letter addressed to Wynand Nimmo, Chief, Office of Laboratory Licensing, Certification and Training dated October 26, 1999 from Nora McGee, Assistant Regional Administrator for Policy and Management) the oversight responsibility for determining laboratory proficiency for the following methods: Method 200.7, version 4.4; method 200.8; Method 200.9; Method 300.0; and Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 19th Edition, 1995 (limited to the methods identified in Arizona Administrative Register, R9-14-610, July 11, 1997). Laboratories are approved by the Region to use the stated methods for National Pollutant

Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance monitoring, upon satisfactorily meeting ADHS licensing requirements and completing a proficiency demonstration.

The letter from EPA Region IX is attached.

3. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, has recently published a Labcert Bulletin, document # EPA-815-N-99-002a (the hard copy that our Office received is dated June 1999, copy on the web page is dated April 1999). It has the information on errata for the 4th Edition of the Lab Cert Manual. It can be downloaded from <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/labcert4.html>.
4. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has accredited the first group of proficiency test (PT) providers for Water Supply (WS), Water Pollution (WP), and Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMRQA) studies. The accreditation is valid through September 30, 2000. The listing of PT providers can be found @ <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/214.htm>. In the future PT samples must be ordered from one of the accredited providers.
5. The quarterly Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting was held on January 13, 2000. The topics discussed were: the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX's approval of alternate test methods for NPDES compliance monitoring in Arizona; status on the updating of Rules; Standardization of Footnotes Sub-Committee status report; Federal Register December 01, 1999 notice on the promulgation of new methodologies and some changes to the existing methods; and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Analytical Report forms. The next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2000 @ Casa Grande.
6. It was brought to our attention that some material was missing from the [Information Update #42](#) on our web page and also we noticed some editorial errors on some of the other Updates. This presumably occurred during the process of being posted on our web page. They have been corrected since then.
7. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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